

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06572 231017Z

11

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9007

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6572

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: KS, PINT

SUBJECT: FIVE POLITICIANS BEING HELD FOR QUESTIONING

1. ACCORDING TO SECRETARY TO FORMER PRESIDENT YUN PO-SUN, AT LEAST FIVE POLITICIANS, INCLUDING KIM TAE-CHUNG ASSOCIATE KIM CHO-MYONG, HAVE BEEN PICKED UP BY POLICE DURING WEEK OF AUGUST 16 FOR QUESTIONING. ROKG IS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING CHARGING GROUP WITH VIOLATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. NINE, SPREADING FALSE RUMORS ABOUT ROKG. YUN'S SECRETARY INDICATED PRIVATELY THAT THEY MIGHT WELL BE GUILTY.

2. ALSO PICKED UP WERE FORMER KOREAN INDEPENDENT PARTY MEMBER CHON SO-TANG AND KIM CHAE-WI. LATTER ONCE HAD NDP CONNECTIONS, HAVING SERVED IN BOTH 4TH AND 6TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES, AND HAS PREVIOUS CONVICTION FCOR VIOLATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. 4. HE WAS THEN SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS IN PRISON AND TEN YEARS LOSS OF CIVIL RIGHTS BUT WAS RELEASED IN 1974.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES FIVE ARE RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT POLITICALLY. MANY OBSERVERS NOTE THAT EVEN KIM CHO-MYONG HAS MINIMAL INFLUENCE OR NATIONAL REPUTATION ALTHOUGH NTERNATIONAL PRESS MIGHT WELL PLAY UP KIM TAE-CHUNG
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ASSOCIATION.

SNEIDER

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